WHI.6a-c Rome

**Rome: Successor to Greece**

Rome follows Greece in class because the Roman Empire modeled itself after ancient Greece

The Romans borrowed much of Greek culture, including their pantheon of Gods, architecture, and government.

Both Rome and Greece are located within the Mediterranean basin

The biggest difference between the two however, is that while Greece always remained a land of disjointed city-states, Rome unifies into a giant empire.

**Rome: Location**

Rome is the name of both an empire, and the capital city of that empire

Rome is located on the Italian peninsula, west of Greece, within the Mediterranean Sea basin

**Geography of Italy**

Rome is located on the Italian Peninsula

To the north of Italy are the Alps Mountains

The Apennines Mountains run down the middle of Italy like a spine

Italy is shaped like a boot:

The Ionian Sea is under the heel and sole, the Adriatic Sea is along the calf muscle

**Italian Geography**

With Rome on the Italian Peninsula, it is centrally located within the Mediterranean basin

This means that the water gives Rome good protection from possible enemies, and they are separated from other powerful forces in the Mediterranean region

The Alps Mountains also served to protect Rome, as they were located in the north

The Mediterranean Sea serves as a liquid highway for Rome, allowing them to use boats to travel around the Mediterranean basin to trade with their neighbors

**Roman Mythology**

Rome grew up in the shadow of ancient Greece, sort of like a little brother

Just like a little brother, Rome wanted to be like their big brother. So, they started borrowing their ideas and ways of doing things.

This started with their polytheistic religion, or mythology

Roman Gods and Goddesses each have a Greek counterpart

Just like the Greeks, the Romans used the Gods to explain natural phenomena, had human qualities, and interacted in people's lives

Some Roman Gods and Goddesses (who match up with Greek gods we already met) Jupiter, Juno, Apollo, Diana, Minerva, Venus

**Roman Society**

Roman society is basically broken up into three groups

Patricians- Most powerful in Rome, the nobility (few rich landowners)

Plebeians: Majority of population (regular Joes, farmers, laborers, businessmen, artisans)

Slaves: Not based on race

**Roman Government**

Rome started small, with just a city, much like Athens

The government used by early Rome was based off the democratic ideas they admired in Athens

Athens was a democracy where every citizen (free man) in Athens had the right to vote on what the government would do.

Rome, however, grew large enough that an Athens-style democracy wouldn't work- there were just too many people

That is how Rome came up with a type of government that is a lot like democracy, but makes working with a large population easier. That government is a republic.

**What is a Republic?**

In a democracy everybody votes. On everything.

If your population is small and the area isn't too big, this works ok.

However, when you have a lot of people over a big area of land, everyone voting gets tricky

In a republic, everyone votes on representatives who will then in turn vote for them on all the important matters

This is a republic, or representative democracy

**Republics Then and Now**

Roman people elected people to represent them in legislative bodies like the assembly and the Senate.

American people elect people to represent them in legislative bodies like the House of Representatives and the Senate.

**Roman Citizenship**

Only Roman citizens could participate in the government.

The following groups were extended citizenship under the Roman Republic:

* Patrician men
* Plebeian men
* Some selected foreigners

Left on the outside are the same groups as usual

* Women
* Slaves

Citizenship in Roman came with responsibilities:

* Pay taxes
* Available for military service

And benefits:

* Protection by Roman army
* Good roads for travel and trade
* Legal system

**Features of Roman Democracy**

**Representative Democracy**

Also known as a republic, where people elect their representatives

**Assemblies**

Legislatures made up of the plebeians that were supposed to make laws

**Senate**

Legislative body in Rome made up of patricians

**Consuls**

Elected by the Senate yearly for one year terms, two consuls work in tandem to execute laws and run the military in Rome

**Twelve Tables**

Literally twelve tablets located in the center of Rome upon which Roman law was written for all to see